



PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
**Annual Town Meeting,**  
IN CLAREMONT,  
March 14th, 15th and 16th, 1854.

At a legal Town Meeting, duly notified, and held at Claremont, in the County of Sullivan, on Tuesday the 14th day of March, in the year 1854, the following officers were chosen :

FOR MODERATOR,

Nathan Waldo.

FOR TOWN CLERK,

Sylvanus F. Redfield.

FOR SELECTMEN,

Daniel S. Bowker, Aurelius Dickinson, William Clark.

REPRESENTATIVES,

Jonas Livingston, John J. Prentiss, Moses Wheeler.

TOWN TREASURER,

Charles M. Bingham.

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

J. D. Pierce.

SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES,

William O. C. Woodbury.

COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL LANDS AND LITERARY FUND.

Albro Blodgett, Alvah Stevens, Ambrose Cossitt.

SEALERS OF LEATHER,

Russel W. Fairwell, Silas E. Noyes and Lewis Perry.

FENCE VIEWERS,

James Sperry, Jonathan E. Rowel, G. W. Blodgett.

SURVEYORS OF LUMBER,

Henry Fitch, Joseph G. Briggs, Leonard P. Fisher.

CONSTABLES,

Oscar J. Brown, Alfred Tracy, Alfred Burrill, Horace A. Perry, H. P. Handerson, Sylvester Wheeler, Nathan Waldo.

## MEASURERS OF WOOD,

Geo. W. Redfield, Alexander V. Hitchcock, Leonard P. Fisher, H. H. White, William Rossiter, Henry Patten, William Clark, William F. Jones.

## AUDITORS,

Thomas J. Harris, William Rossiter, Amos Hitchcock.

## POUND KEEPER,

Seth Paul.

## HOG REEVE,

William Clark.

## HIGHWAY SURVEYORS.

Amos A. Watson, Lewis Perry, Sylvester Wheeler, James Sperry, Samuel Tutherly, Abram Rogers, Edward Ainsworth, Jonathan E. Rowel, Henry Breck, Eliada B. Stevens, William E. Tutherly, Guidon Way, Nathaniel Stone, Clement Vose, Henry F. Stowell, Charles M. Knights, Hiram Erskins, John Clark, Ira Colby, Stephen M. Ayres, Solon C. Granis, Amos A. Smith, Nathaniel Cowles, Arnold Farr, Danford Rice, William D. Morgan, Bela F. Patrick, Elnathan Higbee, Otis Johnson.

## COLLECTOR OF TAXES,

Amos A. Watson.

Voted, To raise the sum required by law for the support of schools.

Voted, That the school money be divided as follow: \$40 to each district, and the remainder according to scholars.

Voted, That the interest of the literary fund be applied to the support of schools.

Voted, To raise fifteen hundred dollars for repairing Highways and Bridges in labor, and five hundred in addition in money to be laid out by the Selectmen, where most needed.

Voted, To raise one thousand dollars for legal expenses of the town.

Voted, That the committee on school lands be authorized to give new leases.

Voted, That all those securing new leases shall pay all the expenses that shall thereby occur.

Voted, To pay Engine Men three dollars per year for their services, in addition to what the law requires.

Voted, To discontinue that piece of road running back of the Elmer House to the Highway, leading from Main Street to Sugar River, near Emerson's Furnace.

Voted, That the Selectmen and Chief Engineer be authorized to build three Reservoirs where they may think proper in Claremont village.

Voted, That the Selectmen be authorized to procure traverse runners to put under the hearse.



Voted, That the town raise six hundred dollars towards the expense of the new engine to be procured.

Voted, That the Selectmen be requested to appoint and license a man to sell wines and spirituous liquors in said town who is a good judge of the article.

Resolved, That the freemen of Claremont hereby instruct their Representatives to vote for no persons for Senators in Congress who are in favor of the main principles of the Nebraska bill, so called.

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|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| State apportionment of Taxes for the year, | \$1122 80 |
| County " " "                               | 974 48    |

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### **Appointments by the Selectmen.**

**CHIEF ENGINEER—GEORGE W. BLODGETT.**

**ASSISTANT ENGINEERS,**

Lewis Perry, Albro Blodgett, E. L. Goddard, William Rossiter, Wm. H. Farwell, Sylvester Wheeler, Amos J. Tenny, Aurelius Dickinson, John J. Prentiss.

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### **Votes for State and County Officers.**

| FOR GOVERNOR,            |     | COUNTY TREASURER,      |     |
|--------------------------|-----|------------------------|-----|
| Nathaniel B. Baker,      | 204 | Royal Shumway,         | 194 |
| Jared Perkins,           | 231 | Timothy D. Powers,     | 229 |
| James Bell,              | 167 | Albro Blodgett,        | 166 |
| RAIL-ROAD COMMISSIONERS. |     | REGISTER OF DEEDS.     |     |
| Stephen W. Dearborn,     | 195 | John Town,             | 194 |
| John Gove,               | 229 | Levi W. Barton,        | 229 |
| William Whittle,         | 169 | William F. Newton,     | 169 |
| COUNCILLORS.             |     | ROAD COMMISSIONERS.    |     |
| Daniel M. Smith,         | 194 | Oliver Booth,          | 194 |
| Thos. J. Harris,         | 225 | Sylvanus F. Redfield,  | 194 |
| Samuel Garfield,         | 169 | Obed Powers,           | 194 |
|                          |     | Ira Colby,             | 229 |
|                          |     | Adolphus Hall,         | 229 |
|                          |     | Doct. Horace Saunders, | 229 |
|                          |     | Thos. A. Twitchell,    | 169 |
| SENATORS                 |     | G. W. Blodgett,        | 160 |
| Oliver B. Buswell,       | 194 | William A. Rand,       | 169 |
| Alvah Smith,             | 229 | Jonathan E. Rowell,    | 1   |
| John S. Walker,          | 169 |                        |     |

# FINANCIAL REPORT.

The undersigned, Auditors of the Town of Claremont, for the fiscal year ending March 13, 1854, having attended to the duties with which they have been charged and found the accounts of the Selectmen, Treasurer, and other Town Officers correctly cast and properly vouched, would submit the following

## REPORT.

### Receipts:

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Balance in the Treasury March 8, 1853,    | \$265 20   |
| For use of Town Hall,                     | 44 00      |
| For Circus License,                       | 40 00      |
| For grass from new cemetery,              | 4 00       |
| For rent of land from Philemon Toles,     | 2 50       |
| For outstanding Taxes from A. Stevens,    | 25 00      |
| For cash sales of Produce from Town Farm, | 263 24     |
| For State apportionment of Literary Fund, | 177 50     |
| For rents on school lands                 | 183 81     |
| From the County on pauper account,        | 621 86     |
| For taxes of 1853.                        | 6,108 88   |
|   | <hr/>      |
|   | \$7,736 01 |

## DISBURSEMENTS.

### *Paid out of the Treasury as follows:*

#### TOWN OFFICERS.

|  |        |        |
|--|--------|--------|
| Thos. J. Harris, for services as Auditor, 1853,            | \$5,60 |        |
| S. C. Bailey, " "  | 3,00   |        |
| Chas. M. Bingham, " "                                      | 4 00   |        |
|  | <hr/>  | 12,00  |
| Charles M. Bingham for services as Treasurer,              |        | 20 00  |
| Josiah Stevens, " Clerk,                                   |        | 25 87  |
| J. D. Pierce, " Superintending School Com.                 |        | 69 00  |
| D. S. Bowker, " as Selectman,                              |        | 93 00  |
| Aurelius Dickinson " "                                     |        | 118 50 |
| William Clark, " "   |        | 95 00  |
|  |        | <hr/>  |
|  |        | 306 50 |
| Aurelius Dickinson, keeping Town books and drawing orders, |        | 20 00  |
| Albro Blodgett, for services as Com. on School Lands,      |        | 5 00   |
| Allen McLaughlin, " Collector,                             |        | 75 00  |
| D. S. Bowker, " Overseer of the Poor,                      | 16 50  |        |
| Aurelius Dickinson, " " "                                  | 5 00   |        |
| William Clark, " " "                                       | 8 00   |        |
|  | <hr/>  | 29 50  |

## INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.

|  |        |        |
|--|--------|--------|
| Alfred Burrill, for services ringing bell,   | 31 00  |        |
| James Barker, for services ringing bell,   | 24 00  |        |
|  |        | 55 00  |
| Alfred Burrill, for services as sexton and repairs,                                    | 66 36  |        |
| James Barker, " " "  | 33 65  |        |
|  |        | 100 01 |
| A Burril, for work on Cemetery,  | 2 25   |        |
| Jonas Livingston, for Engine Hose,   | 45 38  |        |
| Henry Rugg, for repairing engines,   | 22 47  |        |
| Worcester Jones for interest on note,  | 29 34  |        |
| Jonas Livingston, for Engine Mens' Caps, Hose, and freight,                            | 79 00  |        |
| A Colston for repairing engine,  | 4 50   |        |
| A. Dickinson, for Iron Safe,   | 100 00 |        |
| Silas Hawks, for wood for town house,  | 8 00   |        |
| Charles E. Ainsworth, Adm'r, for interest on note,                                     | 15 00  |        |
| Geo. W. Blodgett, repairing Hose, and freight.   | 2 88   |        |
| Sylvanus Blanchard, for damage from bad Highway,                                       | 50 00  |        |
| Joseph Weber, for printing,  | 19 63  |        |
| William M. Ladd, Commissioner for Teachers' Institute,                                 | 64 96  |        |
| D. F. Maynard, for enrolling Militia (6 days.)   | 6 00   |        |
| A. Blodgett for serving notice on Charlestown.   | 3 31   |        |
| J. G. Briggs, for table for office room,   | 5 50   |        |
| D. S. Bowker, for boxes for guns, and Sheriff's fees,                                  | 10 05  |        |
| Aller McLaughlin for tax book,   | 50     |        |
| Aurelius Dickinson, for Rent of office for Town Clerk, Police Court,<br>and Selectmen, | 35 00  |        |
| Table cover, running town line and sundry other small bills,                           | 16 80  |        |
| Young & Brewster for printing,   | 11 00  |        |
| D. S. Bowker, for stationary,  | 1 19   |        |
| A. B. Williamson, for professional services,   | 4 00   |        |
| William Clark, for broom, wood and postage,  | 54     |        |
| PAUPERS.   |        |        |
| On Pauper account,   | 919 87 |        |
| MILITIA.   |        |        |
| On Militia account,  | 9 00   |        |
| ENGINE MEN.  |        |        |
| Compensation to fire engine men,   | 156 00 |        |
| HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.  |        |        |
| Repairing highways and bridges,  | 438 86 |        |
| NEW HIGHWAYS, &c.  |        |        |
| For constructing new highways and land damages,  | 100 00 |        |
| TAXES.   |        |        |
| For abatement of Taxes,  | 183 90 |        |



## SCHOOLS.

Paid for public schools:

| District No. | 1 | No. of Scholars, | 160 | \$294 40 |
|--------------|---|------------------|-----|----------|
| 2            |   | 63               |     | 140 17   |
| 3            |   | 30               |     | 87 70    |
| 4            |   | 64               |     | 141 76   |
| 5            |   | 75               |     | 159 25   |
| 6            |   | 30               |     | 87 70    |
| 7            |   | 36               |     | 97 24    |
| 8            |   | 52               |     | 122 68   |
| 9            |   | 54               |     | 125 86   |
| 10           |   | 22               |     | 74 98    |
| 11           |   | 47               |     | 114 73   |
| 12           |   | 27               |     | 82 92    |
| 13           |   | 21               |     | 73 39    |
| 14           |   | 41               |     | 105 19   |
| 15           |   | 124              |     | 237 16   |
| 16           |   | 28               |     | 84 52    |
| 17           |   | 254              |     | 443 86   |
| 18           |   | 48               |     | 116 32   |
| 19           |   | 28               |     | 84 52    |
| <hr/>        |   |                  |     |          |
| 1204         |   |                  |     | 2674 36  |

## SCHOOL HOUSES.

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| For building and repairing School Houses, | 1529 39   |
|   | <hr/>     |
|   | \$7266 56 |
| Balance now in the Treasury,              | 469 45    |
|   | <hr/>     |
|   | \$7736 01 |



## TOWN FARM.

Having likewise investigated the operations of the Town Farm for the last financial year, as exhibited to us by the Selectmen, the result we give in the following.

## ABSTRACT.

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Amount of per'l property, as per appraisal, March, 1853, | \$1439 08 |
| Amount drawn from the Treasury,                          | 919 79    |
| Amount received on outstanding claims,                   | 7 50      |
| Interest on the cost of the Farm,                        | 228 00    |
|  | <hr/>     |
|  | \$2594 37 |

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| Am't of per. prop'y as per appraisal, March, 1854,  | \$1485 94     |
| Am't from the County and paid into the Treasury,  | 621 86        |
| Am't from the Farm and paid into the Treasury   | 263 24        |
| Am't of claims against the Farm p'd within the last year,                                     | 37 66         |
| Am't now due from the County,   | 33 00         |
| Am't due on sundry other outstanding claims,  | 12 84         |
|   | <hr/> 2454 54 |
|   | 139 83        |
| Add probable cost of overseeing the paupers and other interests of the Farm by the Selectmen, | \$10 00       |
| Balance against the Farm or nett cost to the Town of supporting its poor.                     | \$149 83      |

### RECAPITULATION.

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| Amount due from the Town for money borrowed, including principal and interest, | \$1910 00       |
| Am't due on other outstanding claims, say,                                     | 33 00           |
|  | <hr/> \$1943 00 |
| Deduct for amount due on Tax Bill,   | 521 79          |
| “ “ balance in the Treasury,   | 469 45          |
| “ State apportionment of Rail Road tax not yet received, estimated,            | 245 49          |
|  | <hr/> 1236 73   |
|  | \$706 27        |

The Town having appropriated the Literary Fund, now amounting to \$3864.49 to general purposes, is liable to said Fund for the annual interest thereon for purposes of Public Schooling.

All which is respectfully submitted,

|                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| AMOS HITCHCOCK,    | } <i>Auditors.</i> |
| ANDREW A. CLEMENT. |                    |
| THOMAS J. HARRIS,  |                    |

### POPULATION, &c., OF CLAREMONT.

|                                |            |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| INHABITANTS—Females, . . . . . | 2168       |
| Males, . . . . .               | 1841       |
| TOTAL, . . . . .               | <hr/> 4009 |

☞ The number of Horses in Claremont, April 1st, 1854, as enumerated by the Selectmen, eighteen months old and upwards, is . . . 541

The number of Cattle, eighteen months and upwards, . . . 1868

The number of Sheep, six months and upwards, . . . 4221

## REPORT

### Of the Superintending School Committee of Claremont, For the year ending March, 1854.

#### FELLOW CITIZENS:

The term of service of your Committee being about to expire, it is meet that he should report to you the condition and progress of your Public Schools the past year.

In discharging the onerous, and occasionally, perplexing duties of his office, he has endeavored to bear constantly in mind, that "it is required in stewards that a man be found faithful," and to feel that "it is a very small thing that he should be judged of you, or of man's judgment," if he could enjoy the consciousness of fidelity to his trust, and have the assurance in his own breast, that he was laboring with a single eye to the highest interests of the nurseries of learning consigned to his care. And in speaking of them now, he will hope to be impartial; to describe them as they are, without being influenced by the fear of giving offence, or by the hope of securing favor.

Soon after your last annual meeting, District No. 17 wisely availed itself of the "Somersworth Act," so called, and elected its own Superintending Committee. It should be remembered, therefore, that whatever remarks we may offer on our schools in general, they are not intended to apply to those in the district just named, since they have not been under our supervision.—With this explanation, we will enter on the task before us, by inviting attention to your

#### SCHOOL PROPERTY.

In reference to *School Houses*, "all things remain as they were," at the commencement of the year. None have been erected, none materially repaired. There is urgent need that something be done, by several of our districts to furnish better accommodations for their scholars.

In Numbers 4 and 10, the external appearance of the school houses, is indicative of poverty and neglect, while the interior view is still more repulsive. The seats and desks in these rooms, and in some others, which have been fashioned after a similar model, are so arranged and constructed as to be very inconvenient and uncomfortable. In No. 7, the school room is too small, and in No. 18, too low, for the health and comfort of their occupants. We earnestly recommend to the several districts which have been mentioned to agitate the subject of improvement in reference to their school houses, without delay. Let our citizens therein incite one another, and, if need be, "*provoke* unto love and good works," for none will deny, that their erection of commodious and tasty school houses would be a "good work"—that it would be a demonstration of "love" to their children, who are now obliged to congregate in ill constructed and dilapidated buildings, which can justly lay claim to little of what the school house should be, except the name.

We deem it proper, in this connection, to call attention to the facts, that some of our school houses are destitute of out buildings, and that in some in-



stances where they exist, they are unfit for use. We regard these appendages very necessary and important, for all that can be done should be done, to guard the young against every thing offensive to delicacy, or that will have a tendency to lessen their native modesty, and invite vulgarity of expression.

It gives us pleasure to state, that valuable additions have been made to our school apparatus the past year. The majority of our school rooms are now furnished with a globe, and a set of outline maps, and some of them with a large and elegant map of the United States. The latter is useful for occasional reference, and quite ornamental withal, but we regard the outline maps the more serviceable, and unless both are to be procured, we would recommend them in preference to the other.

We hope the time is not far distant when a beginning will be made towards the establishment of school libraries. A few dollars judiciously expended, would lay the foundation, and a trifling sum being annually appropriated to the object, in a few years an extensive and valuable assortment of books might be collected to enrich the minds and improve the hearts of the rising race. There is the more pressing need of school libraries in our town, in consequence of the humiliating fact, that we are destitute of a public library.

We may add, under this topic, that no changes have been made in the text books in our schools during the year. It may be remembered, that some two years since a new series of reading books was recommended—not enforced—and partially introduced, in the reasonable expectation that the change would soon be entire. We regret to say that this expectation has not been realized, and hence, that in some of our schools two sets of readers are in use, thus multiplying the classes, and impairing the usefulness of the schools. This evil should be speedily remedied. The parent, unless in extreme poverty, must be sordidly penurious who refuses to supply his children with the books necessary to their progress in learning. He is as unwise in his parsimony as he would be, if he should send his workmen into his fields to labor without providing them the implements of toil. We deeply sympathise with the child who has a desire to learn, but has not at his command the necessary helps in the way of text books, for memory brings up before us an experience of a similar privation. We rejoice that at this day, in our favored New England, at least, the public treasury furnishes the needed books to such as are in destitute circumstances. It is but right, of course, that those who have the pecuniary means should look to this matter themselves.

These hints, it is hoped, will be understood, appreciated, and kindly received by the few for whose especial benefit they have been penned.

### TEACHERS.

Our schools have given employment during the year, to thirty nine teachers—fourteen males and twenty five females. Of the whole number, twenty four had had more or less experience in the profession, most of them in this town. Of course, the remaining fifteen were tyroes in the art,—the ratio of beginners being unusually large. Of the success of your Teachers we shall speak in another place. We would observe here, that there is not a necessary correspondence between the measure of a teacher's qualifications in the abstract, and the measure of his success in a particular locality. Extraneous circumstances, beyond the control of the teacher, often greatly modify the prosperity of a school. Sometimes these influences are favorable to the instructor; when this is the case, he may succeed well, and give general satisfaction, though he may possess but ordinary ability, tact and energy. And sometimes these influences operate against the teacher, and then, though ful-

ly qualified for the station, and ever faithful to his work, he may fail of success. These qualifying circumstances should always be borne in mind when judging of the merits of a teacher, by the popularity he may acquire in a particular school.

The literary attainments of your teachers in general, were satisfactory to your committee, though in two or three instances there was not that familiar acquaintance manifested with some of the branches required to be taught which is desirable. It is not enough for a teacher to have mastered a science, years ago. Its principles, with their illustrations and applications, should be *fresh* in his mind. He should be conversant also with the text books he is to use, or he will not be likely to use them to the greatest advantage.

We have been favored with some excellent teachers, excellent as instructors and as disciplinarians, but as a whole, our teachers, though they may have been all we could expect, have not been all we could desire. In consequence of the limited time our schools are in session, and the meagre salaries we pay, we cannot command, in the main, the services of the first class of teachers. Such, very naturally and properly, seek situations where they can have constant employment in their profession, and secure a generous pecuniary recompense. Even if a man have all the qualifications, both natural and acquired, for a model teacher, it cannot be expected he will excel when he is engaged in the calling but three months in the year, the other nine being devoted to another and perhaps widely different pursuit. Considering the unfavorable circumstances to which we have alluded, we have no cause to complain of our board of teachers. They have been, with scarcely an exception, faithful to their mission, and earnest in the discharge of their responsible duties. Of their success we are to speak under the head of

## SCHOOLS.

### SUMMER TERM.

All these schools were visited by your committee soon after their commencement, and all but one, near their close. In the one excepted, owing to a misunderstanding, the term expired before we expected. Several received an intermediate visitation, sometimes made voluntarily, and sometimes by special request. As a whole, the schools compare favorably with the schools of the preceding year. There was no serious difficulty in any of them. They were profitable schools, in the main, and popular both with the children and their parents. A description of them, more in detail, may be acceptable.

In Nos. 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15—primary department—and 16, a good degree of progress was made, the discipline was commendable, and, so far as we know, universal satisfaction was given.

In Nos. 1—both departments—5 and 8, complaints were heard from some parents on the score of severity of discipline. The deportment of these schools, when visited by your committee, was admirable, and the scholars manifested an interest in their studies. And though corporal punishment was, perhaps, in some instances, severely inflicted, it was only in cases where it was believed that circumstances required it. Of the degree of progress in the school of No. 10, we are not competent to speak, since it was not visited near its close.

In Nos. 15—grammar department—and 18, "heaven's first law" was violated to such an extent that the schools were not so profitable as their teachers, in common with others, desired them to be.

In No. 2, the school appeared well when we were in it, but for some cause, it was not satisfactory to many in the district.

In No. 19, the school was very quiet, but the progress was not so great as we should be happy to report it.

The largest school was in No. 15—primary department—numbering 42 scholars; the smallest in No. 19, comprising but 10 scholars. The longest term was 15 weeks, in No. 4; the shortest 8 weeks, in No. 5. The number of scholars in all the schools was 524; average attendance, 384—but a fraction more than 73 per cent. of the whole number,

### WINTER TERM.

With five exceptions, our schools have been under the care of male instructors, all young men, and most of them academical or college students. The winter schools have been more or less satisfactory, and of their success in detail we are now to speak.

No. 1—male department—5, 6 and 11, were so fortunate as to secure the teachers with whom they were favored the preceding winter. In progress and in discipline, these schools sustained the reputation then acquired, though perhaps that in No. 5 should be excepted in the department of discipline.

No. 7, 8, 12, 14 and 16, were blessed with model schools in reference both to improvement and deportment. The teachers and scholars of these schools are entitled to the warmest commendation.

The schools in No. 10 and 13 were not visited near their close as they closed before we expected it.

In No. 3, 7, 9, 15—primary—and 19, were fine specimens of well disciplined schools, and the progress made was, on the whole, commendable.

In No. 1—primary the school, was quite disorderly, but still fair progress was made.

In No. 2 and 15—male department—the schools were partial failures on account of the insubordination of the pupils.

The school in No. 18, was first assigned to a male teacher, but owing to his youth, inexperience and unacquaintance with the management of our district schools, with other causes, perhaps, not subject to his control, the success of the school was not such as to meet the approval of those most interested in it; and at the expiration of a month, he left it. His successor was a female of large experience in teaching, who was very popular with her scholars, and the progress of the school was all that could be expected.

The longest term was 17 weeks, in No. 2; the shortest 8 weeks, in No. 10. The largest school, containing 55 scholars, was in No. 15—grammar department; the smallest schools were in No. 12 and 19, the sum total in each being but 16. The number of scholars in all the schools, was 696. Average attendance, 526, or 75 1-2 per cent. of the whole number.

There have been in the aggregate 490 weeks of schooling in town during the year, which makes the average length of all the schools 24 1-2 weeks.—The statistics of the schools in detail, are given in a schedule annexed to this report.

### MISCELLANEOUS REMARKS.

Under this head we purposed to offer several suggestions of a practical character, but the unprecedented length to which this Report has been already drawn out, admonishes us to forbear. We cannot close, however, without asking your attention for a moment to a general evil of great magnitude, which is injuring our schools to an incalculable extent, and which it is in the power of parents, and of them alone, to remedy. We refer to the *irregularity of their children in attendance at school.*



We are fully convinced, after somewhat careful observation, and mature deliberation, that this evil, though of a negative character, is more palsying in its influence on our schools, than all the other evils with which they have to contend put together. That a child may be warmly interested in his school, he must be there every day, and all the day, and his constant and punctual attendance is necessary that he may keep pace with the classes to which he may belong. We insist that to keep a child from his school, a single day, unless circumstances imperatively require it, is an injury to him, an act of injustice to his teacher, and a wrong to the whole school, because the example exerts a deleterious influence on the other scholars. We call upon our parents, then, most earnestly, to see to it that their children attend school constantly while they are enrolled as its members.

In fine, the District School is doing much for the minds and hearts of our youth. But it would be far more efficient if we would unitedly countenance and untiringly sustain it. It is one of our fathers' legacies to us. Shall we not then prize it, and cherish it, and watch over it, and toil and sacrifice in its behalf? We will pledge ourselves to be faithful to its interests, that it may fulfil its glorious mission. We will invoke the blessing of the Highest to rest on it alway. Respectfully submitted.

**J. D. PIERCE,**

*Superintending School Committee of Claremont.*



## AN ABSTRACT

Of the schools in Claremont, for the year ending March, 1854.

| Districts, | Terms of School,<br>1st sum. 2d win. | TEACHERS.          | PRUDENTIAL COM'S. | Weeks of School | Wh. No. Scholars | Average attendance |
|------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 1          | 1st                                  | M. E. Dimond.      | O. NEWTON.        | 12              | 38               | 29                 |
|            | "                                    | L. D. Land.        | S. F. REDFIELD.   | 12              | 39               | 14                 |
|            | 2d                                   | S. Powers.         |                   | 13              | 47               | 40                 |
|            | "                                    | J. S. Chamberlin.  |                   | 13              | 53               | 43                 |
| 2          | 1st                                  | M. A. Nichols.     | C. JUDKINS.       | 13              | 41               | 31                 |
|            | 2d                                   | S. B. Coffrin.     |                   | 17              | 54               | 35                 |
| 3          | 1st                                  | L. G. Thorndike.   | E. LITTLEFIELD.   | 12              | 16               | 10                 |
|            | 2d                                   | F. B. Dean.        |                   | 13              | 22               | 15                 |
| 4          | 1st                                  | F. E. Marsh.       | G. G. LEWIS.      | 15              | 23               | 25                 |
|            | 2d                                   | J. Dalpe.          |                   | 13              | 53               | 42                 |
| 5          | 1st                                  | S. J. Tolles.      | W. ELLIS.         | 12              | 32               | 24                 |
|            | 2d                                   | W. Balloch.        |                   | 16              | 52               | 35                 |
| 6          | 1st                                  | S. Laberee         | W. MERRILL.       | 8               | 15               | 14                 |
|            | 2d                                   | L. D. Ladd.        |                   | 13 1-2          | 27               | 21                 |
| 7          | 1st                                  | S. S. Lathe.       | H. PATRICK.       | 11 1-2          | 18               | 15                 |
|            | 2d                                   | A. W. Chamberlin.  |                   | 10              | 28               | 22                 |
| 8          | 1st                                  | E. M. Judkins.     | E. HAPGOOD.       | 13              | 23               | 17                 |
|            | 2d                                   | J. C. Ainsworth.   |                   | 14              | 30               | 23                 |
| 9          | 1st                                  | L. L. Sperry.      | S. W. SPERRY.     | 12              | 36               | 30                 |
|            | 2d                                   | E. W. Chamberlain. |                   | 12 1-2          | 45               | 30                 |
| 10         | 1st                                  | S. M. Patrick.     | J. D. DIMOND.     | 10              | 15               | 11                 |
|            | 2d                                   | J. G. Freeman.     |                   | 8               | 17               | 11                 |
| 11         | 1st                                  | S. R. Pike.        | G. G. CLARK.      | 12              | 25               | 17                 |
|            | 2d                                   | J. W. Patrick.     |                   | 14              | 27               | 21                 |
| 12         | 1st                                  | E. M. Bond.        | C. DEAN, Jr.      | 10              | 12               | 9                  |
|            | 2d                                   | O. Tinkham.        |                   | 12 1-2          | 16               | 15                 |
| 13         | 1st                                  | P. Chapin.         | J. REED.          | 10              | 21               | 18                 |
|            | 2d                                   | S. L. Cobb.        |                   | 10              | 23               | 19                 |
| 14         | 1st                                  | H. M. Richardson.  | S. AYRES.         | 12              | 26               | 20                 |
|            | 2d                                   | L. S. Colby.       |                   | 12              | 30               | 17                 |
| 15         | 1st                                  | D. G. Sargeant.    | H. ROYCE.         | 12              | 42               | 21                 |
|            | "                                    | L. Pomroy.         | G. W. HMERSON.    | 12              | 37               | 27                 |
|            | 2d                                   | M. A. Jones.       | J. J. MINER.      | 11              | 47               | 34                 |
|            | "                                    | J. W. Fletcher.    |                   | 11              | 55               | 45                 |
| 16         | 1st                                  | A. E. Towne.       | E. AINSWORTH.     | 12              | 16               | 13                 |
|            | 2d                                   | J. Laberee.        |                   | 14              | 22               | 21                 |
| 18         | 1st                                  | L. A. Waterman.    | F. CLEMENT.       | 14              | 29               | 21                 |
|            | 2d                                   | J. H. Wiggin.      |                   | 4               | 26               | 21                 |
|            | "                                    | P. Chapin.         |                   | 10              | 32               | 27                 |
| 19         | 1st                                  | J. A. Thorndike.   | L. A. GRANNIS.    | 12              | 10               | 9                  |
|            | 2d                                   | E. P. Rice.        |                   | 12              | 16               | 10                 |

## R E P O R T

**Of the Superintending Committee for district No. 17,  
For the year ending March 14, 1854.**

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At the last annual school meeting held March 28, 1854, "The Somersworth Act" was adopted by this district. The object of its adoption was to establish a graduated system of schools in the district. This act allows the district to appoint its own Superintending Committee of not less than 5 or more than 7, all residing in the district. If the district fails to appoint such committee it is the duty of the Selectmen to appoint them.

It is the duty of such Committee to divide the scholars according to qualifications and determine to what grade of school each shall belong. And do all for the district, that the Superintending Committee does for the town.

Under this act the district appointed a committee of seven, and in obedience to the law we present the following report:

District No. 17 has sustained three schools in summer and winter.— The summer schools were kept 16 weeks, and the winter schools 15. In summer all the schools were kept by females. In winter one man and two women were employed.

The summer school on the north side of the river was taught by Miss Aura S. Ingalls, of Vermont. The number of scholars under her instruction between the ages of 4 and 16, was 51. Average attendance 25.— Males 21, females 30. She was very laborious in her efforts, and kept a profitable school. She was annoyed by the insubordination of a few scholars; so that her labors were less satisfactory to herself than profitable to the district.

The same school was kept in winter in the new, beautiful and commodious house on the Terrace, and was under the instruction of Miss Martha G. Pratt, of Deerfield, Mass. Number of scholars in attendance 56. Average number 40. Males 25, Females 31. This has been an excellent school, in instruction and discipline, attending to those things that belong especially to a primary school.

Two schools have been kept as usual in the brick school house on the south side of the river. The primary, Summer school, was taught by Miss Louisa Briggs of this town. The number of scholars under her instruction was 48. Males 23, Females 25. Average attendance 36.— The teacher had a kind, pleasant manner, and attended to those exercises that belong to a school of its grade.—Though the school was not very quiet.



The winter school was taught by Miss Amanda M. Carroll of Cornish. Her scholars numbered 56, Males 28, Females 28, average attendance 48. The school was large, and the scholars compelled to sit so near together that *that* discipline has not been maintained which is desirable; though the teacher has been labourious; and those advanced in their studies have made good progress; while the same progress has not been visible in reading and spelling—the grand business of the primary school.— Though there were scholars in this school of considerable advancement, who needed to study other branches than those which belong to this grade of school, but for whom there was no room in the secondary school.

The secondary school in the same house was begun in summer by Miss Anna C. Spencer, of Windsor, Vt. She was called home by sickness after teaching eight weeks, and the school was finished by Miss Mary E. Dimond, after she had completed her school on the Plain. The number of scholars was 43. Males 20, Females 23. The register is not filled out, so that we cannot give the exact average; but about 30. The school was thoroughly taught, and efficiently disciplined, and was a profitable one.

The same school was taught in winter by Mr. James W. Webster, of Hopkinton, with efficiency and profit. The discipline has been good and the progress of the scholars in their studies was very marked. Much injury, however, has been done to the progress and discipline of the school by want of room, as may be seen by the following facts: there are in the room 20 desks, which accommodate 40 scholars, but there have been more than 60, compelling 3 to sit in each seat; and in some cases 4. It is impossible to sit in this manner without serious injury to the scholar, as well as the discipline of the school.

The whole number of scholars who attended more than 2 weeks, was 71. Average attendance 60. Males 33, Females 38.

The whole number of scholars who have attended school in the district two weeks or more the past winter, has been 181. The number who have attended during the summer is 137. 201 different scholars have attended two weeks or more during the year between the ages of 4 and 16. 12 have attended who are more than 16 years of age. 12 are known to live in the district between the ages of 4 and 14—though we have no means of discovering how many more who have not attended any school.

As a whole our schools have been successful and profitable. The amount of money that was apportioned to this district for the support of schools the past year, has been \$443,86, giving \$2,08. to each scholar.

During the year the district has erected as fine a house on the Terrace as can be found for a primary school—high, spacious, and well ventilated. This is a house that does honor to the district. The cost of land, house, and fixtures is \$1500,00.

The district voted also to build another house, with two rooms, on the south side of the river, but it failed for want of union in the location.

But little of any advantage has as yet been derived from the adoption of the Somersworth Act; but under it the schools can attain a greater de-

gree of classification than has yet been attained, and better than could be attained without it.

For our winter schools we have too many schollars for three schools; and if the district should deem it necessary to employ another female teacher for the winter schools, a complete system of graduated schools can then be secured.

But there is a better way than that for the district, and better for the schools of the town—and this is for the contiguous districts to adopt that act which allows contiguous districts to unite to establish a high school. It would tend to classify all our schools and give us a school of a higher order. A school of the highest order can be maintained for the amount expended for tuition at our academy, and many educated who now go abroad for the purpose of education. But to secure this school these districts must each of them give it a two-thirds vote.

We are of the opinion that there is no village in our state of the size of Claremont, and its high prospects for the future, without its high school or a substitute; and we have yet to hear of the first town or village that has enjoyed the advantages of such school, that has been willing afterwards to dispense with it.

All which is respectfully submitted.

NATHANIEL TOLLES,  
SYLVESTER WHEELER,  
M. C. McCLURE,  
NATHAN WALDO,  
THOSMAS AYERS,  
JOHN McLAUGHLIN,  
OLIVER AYER.

Superintending  
Committee,  
For District  
No. 17,  
March 14, 1854.